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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Technology Center 2600

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :
Toshihisa SARUTA, et al. : EXAMINER: Not Assigned
SERIAL NO.: 09/442,646 :
FILED: November 18, 1999 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2722
FOR: METHOD OF NORMALITY :
DECISION WITH REGARD TO
INK CARTRIDGE AND
PRINTER ACTUALIZING THE
METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to consideration of the above-identified application, please amend the
application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 19 are amended as follows:

Sub
B1
1. (Once Amended) A method of determining whether a storage unit included in an
ink cartridge is normal, wherein the ink cartridge is configured to be detachably attached to a
printer, the method comprising the steps of:

A1
(a) reading a piece of decision information that has been registered in advance in a
predetermined format, from the storage unit; and

(b) identifying whether the read-out piece of decision information satisfies the
predetermined format, so as to determine whether the storage unit is normal.